



**Thirty-eighth
session of ECLAC**
26–28 October 2020

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Thirty-eighth session of the Economic Commission
for Latin America and the Caribbean

Virtual meeting, 26–28 October 2020

**Guidelines for participation in panel 1: Sectors driving sustainable development
(Tuesday, 27 October 2020, 9.30–11 a.m. (Costa Rica time))**

It is an honour for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Government of Costa Rica that you will participate in the thirty-eighth session of the Commission and, in particular, in panel 1, entitled “Sectors driving sustainable development”, based on chapter IV of the session position paper, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*.

Panel 1 will be held on 27 October, between 9.30 and 11 a.m., following the presentation of the ECLAC position paper, *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*, by Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and comments by His Excellency Carlos Alvarado, President of Costa Rica, Mariana Mazzucato, Director of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose (IIPP) of University College London, Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University (to be confirmed), and Joseph Stiglitz, University Professor at Columbia University (to be confirmed).

The panellists on panel 1 are invited to reflect critically on the sectors that are driving sustainable development. In the document *Building a New Future: Transformative Recovery with Equality and Sustainability*, ECLAC states that for Latin America and the Caribbean to overcome the limitations imposed by its development style, a progressive structural shift towards more knowledge-intensive sectors, with higher rates of growth in demand and employment, is required. This must be achieved without sacrificing the quality of natural resources and the environment of the services they provide. Lastly, it is noted that these changes call for a coordinated set of policies, called a big push for sustainability.

It is argued that cooperation and the creation of synergies among State policies, the strategies of private or public companies, and social and community initiatives, are at the heart of the process of structural change needed to close the external, environmental and social gaps.

Chapter IV of the document analyses seven sectoral systems that could be at the centre of efforts to provide a major boost to social, economic and environmental sustainability: (i) non-conventional renewable energy sources; (ii) urban electromobility; (iii) digitization; (iv) the health-care manufacturing industry; (v) the bioeconomy; (vi) the circular economy; and (vii) tourism. It is noted that there is ample scope in these sectors to generate better-quality jobs, pursue innovation, incorporate technological progress, diversify exports, adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and undertake regional cooperation efforts.

The selection of sectors presented in chapter IV is meant as a guide to a transformation of the production structure in which each country, in accordance with its characteristics and priorities, will determine the activities it is to concentrate on, the combinations among them, the approach taken to implementing development policies and the way other sectors are incorporated into the logic of progressive structural change and the big push for sustainability.

The panellists are invited to critically evaluate the contents presented in chapter IV, by analysing and contrasting the ideas and arguments presented, and giving their thoughts thereon. Each panellist will have **10 minutes for his or her presentation** and will have a few extra minutes to answer questions or respond to observations from meeting participants.

Modality: The meeting will be held virtually, through the Webex platform, for which the secretariat will send you a link in due course.

Date and time: Tuesday, 27 October 2020, 9.30–11 a.m. (Costa Rica time). To see the time in your country, you can check it here: <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/?low=c&sort=1>.

Moderator: Representative of Costa Rica.

Languages: Statements can be made in Spanish, English or French, according to your preference. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in those three languages.

Presentations: Panellists may prepare a slideshow presentation if they wish. You are kindly requested to send a written version of your presentation and any accompanying slideshow presentation to secretariadelacomision@cepal.org, so that they can be posted on the Commission's website for session after delivery. Panellists who wish to give a slideshow presentation are asked to notify the secretariat by writing to the same email address in order to ensure that they will be able to share their screens.

Documentation: Documentation for the thirty-eighth session of ECLAC is available on the ECLAC website <https://periododesesiones.cepal.org/38/en>.